

(Copy)

January 11th, 1915.

Mr. Jacob Johnson,
Johnson and Hadland Packing Co.,
Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Referring once more to your favor of November twentieth in which an offer is conveyed to this Board of \$700.00., cash for the house known as the manse in Petersburg and owned by this Board, I beg to say, after correspondence with our people in Alaska and with well-posted people in your town, that the offer does not commend itself to us, and that we are, therefore, obliged to decline. We are informed by well-posted people that the property is worth much more than the sum offered.

Very truly yours,

O-W

Petersburg, Alaska

(C O P Y)

Petersburg, Alaska, Jan.

Dr. J. H. Condit,

Juneau.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor is at hand, and zinc floor has already been put in in the tower of the church. In regard to the parsonage give us a little time. A minister in the east has a plan, published in a recent number of our church paper, that he thinks will make it possible for us to buy both church and manse. So please do not sell off the parsonage right away, but give us a little time. Of course, we need the manse nearly as bad as the church. Anything but a shack is impossible to rent-- houses are scarce, although many have been built lately, and several being built. I haven't considered it worth while to try to raise any subscription at present, as everybody is "broke".

I hope time will mend soon.

Yours truly,

(Signed) T. K. Thorvilson.

Petersburg, Alaska;

Feb. 2nd, 1915.



The Board of Home Mission;
156 5th Ave. N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

On account of my health I am forced to leave Alaska and take up my residence in Montana.

Dr. Condit requested me , should I leave the Manse , to get a steady responsible tenant for same. Which I have done in the person of Mr. Jacob Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a reliable man and will pay the rent without causing you any worry. I may say he is one of the directors of the Petersburg Bank and quite an influential man.

Mr. Johnson took the lease the same as I had it. Should you dispose of the property he shall have thirty days notice in which to move out.

The installation of the water system has been held up on account of cold weather, but is progressing favorably now, and will be in working order soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. A. Blyth'.

(Copy)

February 3, 1915

Rev. T.K.Thorvilson,
Petersburg,
Alaska.

Dear Brother:

I have your favor of recent date asking for time in which to arrange for the purchase of the manse.

In the following mail I had a cash offer for the manse and have also a previous offer made direct to our Board in New York.

While I would personally prefer to see the manse property pass to the Lutheran Church along with our Church Building, yet the financial condition of our Home Mission Board's Treasury this year makes it imperative that we realize upon all our holdings at once. We are confronted with a possible deficit of large proportions and are making heroic efforts to meet this deficit before the end of our fiscal year, April 1st.

However, as I have already said, we would prefer to turn the manse over to the Lutheran church for manse purposes, and therefore I will grant you a three months option on the building at the price of \$1,000, from February 1st. This will give your people until May 1st to arrange for the purchase. Considering the time which has already passed since we turned our mission over to your body I consider that this is a reasonable extension.

Cordially Yours,

James N. Condit

February 3, 1915.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Yours of the twenty-third instant in the matter of the Petersburg property, giving us a copy of the letter from the Rev. T. K. Thorvilson relative to repairs, and so forth, is at hand, together with a copy of your reply to him. His letter, of course, meets with our warm approval. Now I suppose we may look to the church at Petersburg for interest at 6%, as has been suggested, and we will schedule the matter upon our collection cards. I sincerely wish that the congregation might buy the church property, although reports from Mr. Diven indicate that the Lutheran work is not going very prosperously at Petersburg.

Thanking you, I am,

Very cordially,

Treasurer.

February 13th, 1915.

Dr. H. A. Blyth,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 2nd instant, notifying us of your intention to leave Alaska and take up your residence in Montana, and therefore of your vacating the Manse property belonging to this Board, is at hand.

We note also that you have secured Mr. Jacob Johnson, as a tenant on the same terms as you are holding the house. This is satisfactory to us and we hope that ultimately Mr. Johnson may make up his mind to offer a larger price for the property than that previously made.

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

O/S

Petersburg, Alaska

Petersburg, Alaska, June 26th, 1915.

Mr. H. C. Allen,

New York.

Dear Sir:



Your favor in regard to interest on church here is at hand. There must be some mistake or misunderstanding about that. Our secretary is out of town, and will be for some time, so I cannot get at his minutes, but I think I remembered the resolution passed at our annual meeting in January: that we pay interest at 6% on the church at a valuation of \$1829.10, beginning January 1st. We expect our Ladies Aid to raise this money through a sale. They have a lot of stuff made up, but have thought it inadvisable to have the sale till later, because the fishing, so far has been a failure. As soon as they have had the sale we will send the interest, till then we cannot do it. Several of our members have moved away, and everybody is "broke," so it is no use to try a subscription.

Yours truly,
G. K. Thorvaldson.

P E T E R S B U R G

"Called on Rev. Thorvilson to make inquiry regarding the status of the Lutheran work and their success in taking over our Presbyterian plant and work.

Rev. Thorvilson reported progress in that he had just sent Mr. Olin the interest on the money invested by the Boards in the church building. Also stated that the church would make a payment on the property taken over early in January.

Mr. Duryea, who has been superintendent of the S.S., and who is a most excellent man, and who at one time had charge of the mission in the absence of a pastor, represented that the town was very much dissatisfied with the church conditions. He said that a mere handful attended the services. Also, that even the Lutherans of the community refused to support Mr. Thorvilson. I consulted with two other men, one a Lutheran, each of whom confirmed the complaint. Mr. Duryea is the only Presbyterian in the town with the exception of his wife and the two of them have been the main stay of the religious work of the community for years.

It was the judgment of the committee, and is my own also, that we ought to take this work again in the interest of the spiritual welfare of the town. There are between 500 and 600 people living here and only the one church. There are five saloons."

Extract from Report of Dr. Condit rec'd Dec. 4/1915.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

November 24th, 1915.

Rev. T. K. Thorvilson,
Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th, enclosing a check for \$65.48, being the interest to July 1st on \$1829.00, the agreed value of the church building when you shall desire to take it over, is at hand. A receipt for the same is enclosed herewith with thanks.

We note what is said with regard to the expectation of your people to buy the church at no distant date and we sincerely hope your expectations may be realized, as we not only wish to dispose of this property, but desire also that the work so well begun by Mr. Diven may be pushed on by your people.

We hope that the fishing industry during the coming year may be such that you may be able to manage this matter without any difficulty.

Wishing you all success in the work and hoping to hear from you again after the bazaar shall have been held, I am

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

December 17th, 1915.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

Rev. T. K. Thorvilson,

Petersburgh,

Alaska.

Dear Mr. Thorvilson:-

This is to notify you that the semi-annual interest due on the value of the church buildings used by your congregation, amounting to \$54.87 will be due and payable January 1st, 1916. As I recall it, one of your letters ~~stated~~ that there was a prospect of your people being able to pay the amount of the principal on which you have already paid interest to July 1st, 1915. The value of the Petersburg Church building as agreed upon is \$1829. on which sum you are paying 6% interest.

We will be glad to receive the interest due January 1st as promptly as possible, especially in view of the fact that we awaited ^{the} July 1st interest for several months beyond the due date.

I trust that your work at Petersburg has been so successful that your people will ^{soon} be enabled to take up this matter and liquidate the full amount of the value of the building.

Wishing you the Compliments of the approaching holiday season,

I am

Yours sincerely,

Treasurer.

B/H

Petersburg

December 20th, 1915.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Dr. Dixon passes to this office the extract from your letter dated December 4th, relating to the Hakan property, and to the Petersburg situation.

As to the latter, no doubt you will take that question up with Dr. Dixon after you shall have had further negotiation, perhaps with Mr. Thorvilson, and shall have considered the situation with the Presbytery. Dr. Dixon very likely has written you his own opinion relative thereto.

As to the Howkan matter: It would seem wise to dispose of that property whenever it can be done to advantage. In this we agree with you and will ask that you will submit a proposition to the Board for its sale, if one should come your way.

I do not suppose that there is any prospect of such an improvement in property values at Howkan that it might be well to hold on to the real estate. A disposition of the bell, organ and seats was doubtless the wise thing to be done with those facilities.

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

Petersburg, Alaska, Dec. 29th, 1915. 17

Mr. H. C. Olin,

PAID	55.20
DATE	
BY	
FOR	

m + D

New York.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find \$55.20, 54.84 second half of interest on church for the year, and 36 cts. bal. due on interest for first half, as in the hurry I made the order \$54.48, instead \$54.84.

Now, we want the church, but it is impossible for us ^{to} pay for it in full, cash down. We have gathered \$285.00, and can raise quite a little more. We may be able to get some help from our church extension in our squad, but the last letter I had from the chairman of that board told me there was nothing in the treasury, as those churches ~~that~~ had loans did not ask me to repay their loans. You offered us the church property, church and manse, once for all initial cash payment of \$5000, and annual installments for the balance. As it looks now, with the little religious

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interest in the town, and determined
opposition of the saloons and the rotten
element, also indifference on the part of the
decent element, it may be difficult
for us to acquire both church and
manse. What cash first payment
on the church alone are you willing
to accept? And does your offer of
\$500.00 on the whole property still stand?

Lately some of our people have talked
of acquiring a plot nearer the business
part of town and building our own
church. This feeling is quite strong
amongst our Presbyterians just now,
because of crooked work by the only
Presbyterians here, Mr. & Mrs. Sturges.
During the holidays Mrs. Sturges had
caused the town with a petition
to get a Presbyterian minister here.
Among the signers are two saloonkeepers
and their wives, two ex-saloon-
keepers and their wives, and, with two
exceptions, people that do not care for
church or go to church. When Rev.
Clark, of Braintree, built the church
here, there were some Presbyterians
and other English-Speaking

people that cared for church, but
they had moved away before I came
here. 90 percent of the population are
Norwegians, and brought up in the Lutheran
Church. So as to ministers to all, I
preach both English and Norwegian
every Sunday, and as I am known
in this country and am a college
graduate, of course, I speak English
without a laguer. I tell you all
this, so that you may know that there
is neither demand nor necessity for
placing a man here. I shall, of course,
remain here under all circumstances.
These give us a little time in January,
as it has been impossible during the
holidays to canvass for funds. We have
our annual business meeting the second
Saturday in January. Truly,
R. K. Thorvik.

Go under
Miscellaneous
Don't amend int. Dec. 1964
Jan. 1966 re value of (1964)
check building of (1964)
Potomac club
all on
top line

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 7th, 1916

Mr. H. C. Olin,
156 5th Ave.,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Olin:

Replying to your telegram of January 5th relative to the Petersburg situation I note that it is the desire of the Board that no farther steps be taken until action is taken by the Board and I will govern my correspondence accordingly.

I regret to say that in my telegram of last night I inadvertently gave you misinformation.

The president of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is Dr. H. G. Stub, 806 Sheldon Ave., St Paul, Minn., and not Rev. H. A. Stub, 1215 Thomas St., Seattle, as I indicated. The latter is the son of the President of the Norwegian Church and also has an official position on their mission Board and from representations made to me in Petersburg I supposed that he was the head of the church. I regret this error.

The president of the Church Extension Society of the church is Rev. H. G. Magelssen, 507 56th St., LaCrosse, Wisconsin., and I am advised by the Rev. Stub who lives here in Seattle that he is the proper person to correspond with in regard to the Petersburg property but that it is advisable also to correspond with the church President whose address is as above.

I conferred last night with the district superintendent of missions of the Norwegian Church, Rev. Ludwig C. Foss, 779 Lakeview Boulevard, Seattle, who has immediate supervision of the Alaska work of the church.

He tells me that a conference of the mission board of the church is to be held soon in St Paul and that the Petersburg matter will come up for discussion at that time.

I gave him a full report of conditions at Petersburg and he assured me that there would be a change in missionaries at Petersburg and that he had felt that Mr. Thorvilson was not the man for the place for some time. He also indicated that their church could not leave a community with so many Norwegians in it as are at Petersburg without a Norwegian Lutheran minister. Also that they would do their best to send a young man there who would be able to acceptably fill the position of spiritual leader to the entire community. It is my impression that even if we do take the work back again we will have a Norwegian minister there also.

I assured Mr Foss that in my judgement our Board would not attempt to place an additional missionary in this field if his

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church would meet the spiritual needs of the community and also would take over our property; But that it was our duty to provide for the religious destitution which existed under present conditions and that we also felt that we had given abundant time for paying for our property at Petersburg, in so far as the Board had advanced funds, and should be reimbursed at once so that our money could be doing our work elsewhere.

If the Norwegian people will give assurances along this line I would favor giving them the opportunity of demonstrating their sincerity before we proceed farther. I believe that the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery will accede to this, also.

I represent the Haines farm project at Howiam and Aberdeen next Sunday and am to go to North Yakima and Ellensburg the following Sunday. The week after that I hope to make Everett and Bellingham. Last Sunday morning I spoke at a small mission church near where we live and they gave me \$9.05 for Haines with the promise of more. If the larger churches do as well I hope to be able to buy a horse before I go back and to make him preach the gospel. Why not if a dumb ass could speak in Balak's day?

Shall I remit to you as I receive contributions or shall I hold funds here, report to you the amounts and churches so that it may be entered upon the books and receipts given, and thus have the money available when I need it to make purchases with.

I have received favorable quotations on the farm implements which are required here in Seattle, and would like to make such purchases as are necessary, and ship, before I return to Juneau. I will also be able, probably, to pick up such a horse as is needed at a bargain at this time of the year. We have a small army of brewery horses out of a job.

In concluding may I express for myself and all of the Alaskan missionaries our appreciation of your Christmas greeting and say to you how much we are helped by the personal messages which in the midst of your official burdens you find time to include in your correspondence.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

February 9th, 1916/

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I am handing you herewith copies of letters just written to Mr. Thorvilson of Petersburg, Alaska, and to Dr. H. G. Stub, President of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Alaska at St. Paul. I am also giving you a copy of Mr. Thorvilson's letter to which ours is a reply. You will see thereby that we have indicated to him that further negotiations can only be opened with him after we have received a report from yourself.

Will you therefore take this matter up again, if in your judgment it is necessary so to do, and recommend to us what, in your opinion, should be done under the circumstances.

I note by Mr. Thorvilson's letter that they have in hand \$285. and that probably if they were given ^{some} time in January, more could be raised.

If it is your opinion that it would be wise to accept a payment of say \$500. on the whole property and give them a contract for a deed, as originally proposed, I presume the Board would consent so to do.

I have previously written you relative to the Haines farm project, and the prospects for furnishing the necessary funds for the equipment and the spring work.

In answer to your specific questions as to whether you had better send the contributions direct here, I would suggest that probably that would be wise, as the Churches will no doubt wish credit upon our books therefor.

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

February 9th, 1916.

Rev. T. K. Thorvilson,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of December 29th, enclosing a Post Office order for \$55.20, covering the semi-annual interest on the value of the Church property which you are occupying, plus thirty-six cents, balance due on interest for the first half, is duly at hand. A receipt for the same is enclosed herewith, with thanks.

Now as to the matter of the taking over of the Church property: In view of the verbal arrangement entered into in May 1914 with our General Missionary, the Rev. James H. Condit, D.D. of Juneau, we are not in position, at the present time, to say just what can be done in the premises. So long a time having elapsed since your occupancy of the property, we are not aware, at first hands, as to just what changes may have taken place. We are therefore sending a copy of your letter to Dr. Condit, asking him to take the matter up anew with you, and to make some recommendation as to the properties.

As of course you are aware, the Manse is now occupied by Mr. Johnson, who is paying a regular rental therefor.

Should Dr. Condit reply favorably in the matter of the continuance of the original arrangement made with you, I have no doubt that the Board would consent thereto, but it will be necessary, as I have said, to hear from Dr. Condit definitely before any such arrangement can be entered into.

Meantime, we shall be glad if you will continue your endeavor to raise the funds to take over the Church property, and if possible, also the Manse property.

Should Dr. Condit report favorably, no doubt some arrangement could be made whereby, upon proper assurances, your people might secure this property.

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

February 9th, 1916.

Rev. H. G. Stub,
806 Sheldon avenue,
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Sir:-

Some two years since, the Rev. T. K. Thorvilson of Petersburg, Alaska, entered into an arrangement whereby the Church and Manse previously built for this Board to accommodate its work and its pastor in that community, were taken over for the Lutheran work.

Our pastor, realizing that the great majority of inhabitants were Norwegians and with inclinations to the Lutheran faith, advised this transfer of the property to your representative. The arrangement between Mr. Thorvilson and our General Missionary, the Rev. James H. Condit, D.D. were briefly to the effect that Mr. Thorvilson should occupy the Manse after August 1st, 1914, at a rental of \$15.00 per month, until such time as a first payment of \$500. should be made upon the two properties, which payment was to be made as soon as possible, and upon which payment a contract for a deed was to be given to Mr. Thorvilson and his congregation.

Upon the exchange of this payment and the contract for a deed, the Church was to execute a note for \$2,329.10 with interest at 6% covering the unpaid balance, with the promise on the part of this Board that a deed should be delivered when total payments on principal should have amounted to \$1,500.

With this recital of preliminary facts, I beg to say that Mr. Thorvilson was unable to manage the taking over of the whole property, the Manse was consequently rented to another person and has been thus occupied since that time. Upon the valuation put upon the Church, \$1,829.10, interest has been received at 6% up to January 1st, 1915. No progress, however, has been made by Mr. Thorvilson and his congregation toward completing the undertaking, and we beg to ask whether there is any prospect whatever that your denomination will redeem the promises of your representative at Petersburg.

We should be glad to hear from you upon this point at your earliest convenience, in order that we may determine what steps are next necessary to be taken.

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

Petersburg

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HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 10, 1916

Mr. H.C.Olin.

156 5th Avenue,

New York.

Dear Mr. Olin:

Your letter of February 9th with copies of communications to Rev. T.K.Thorvilson and Rev.H.G.Stub and also of ~~your letter~~ letter from Mr Thorvilson to your office came to hand some time since.

I have delayed this reply because it has not been easy to come to a definite conclusion. After consultation with the Home Mission Committee of Alaska Presbytery the following seems advisable:

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First, to insist to Dr. Stub of St Paul, who as I understand it is President of the Home Mission work of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in the U.S.A., that a man be placed ~~who~~ Petersburg who shall be able to cope with the situation there. The Rev.L.C.Foss, 1010 Franklin Ave., Seattle, who is superintendent of the Pacific Division of the Lutheran work, assured me that such a change would be made. He also assured me that he had doubted the wisdom of placing Mr Thorvilson in Petersburg in the first place. Mr T. will never meet the spiritual needs of Petersburg and if he is to continue there I would feel like advising that we take charge again, although it would be far better for the Lutheran church to have the field -if they will properly occupy it.

. Secondly, make no farther overtures on the basis of turning over both church and manse but retain the manse for the present. Unless the Mission Board helps the local organization they will not be able to pay for either church or manse. It would be advisable, therefore, to retain title to the manse and in case the church is purchased by the Lutherans and it seems certain that ~~we~~ will

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have no farther duty there, then dispose of the manse to whoever will buy and pay cash, so that we may have the proceeds to put in to new work.

Third, if the Lutheran church will promise to put a man in Petersburg who can handle the situation, proceed to negotiations for sale but with a stipulation that the entire amount due be turned over within a definite and limited time. The Lutheran people have occupied the building now almost three years and have paid nothing on the principal.

I do not consider it worth while to take up the matter again with Mr Thorvilson as I am thoroughly satisfied that he can do nothing financially and certainly very little spiritually for Petersburg and the church. To my mind he is a weak brother, bound up in his Lutheranism and full of old country prejudice toward other christians and denominations. His criticisms of Mr and Mrs Duryea are uncalled for and unjust. Mr. Duryea and wife are the only strong christian characters I know of in the community.

I would also be glad to see the whole matter disposed of through Dr Stub with assurance of a better man and some money.

Cordially Yours,

James H. Condit

(Copy of letter from Rev. T.K.Thorvilson, Petersburg Alaska)

Petersburg, Alaska March 14th 1916.

Rev. J.H.Condit, D.D.,

Juneau.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I received a communication from you re the church property here and a petition that the Presbyterians again take up the work here. I had then written the Board in N.Y. so I have delayed answering your letter till I heard from N.Y. Mr Olin informs me that he has sent you my letter and left the matter in your hands. He probably then also has sent you another letter regarding the same matter.

In regard to that "petition" it is probably unnecessary to add much to what I wrote Mr. Olin. To give you an inkling of how Mrs. Duryea stands in the community and how this latest performance of hers is considered by the element here, I might mention the fact that she was expelled by the W.C.T.U. here. Some time back they came pretty near doing the same thing for another reasons, among them soliciting donations to buy a wedding present for one of our saloon keepers who got married. The members of the Union accuse her of not being true to their principles and carrying the cloak on both shoulders.

This is a hard field and I do not know how much I can accomplish; but I take it that a minister of your denomination who speaks only English would find it still harder among Norwegian Lutherans. Except the Duryeas the Americans do not come to church--the bulk of those on Mrs. Duryea's petition. Through misunderstanding on their part some tohers signed but have since written the Board in N.Y. and taken their names off.

That petition has helped us and we--the attendance having improved especially at the Norwegian services. One of our business men who does not come to church, told Mrs. Duryea that was the toughest document ever circulated in Petersburg.

Will do what we can to raise money; but most of the fishermen are broke because of the two previous lean years.

Yours truly,

(signed) T.K.Thorvilson.



Copy

March 17, 1916

Rev. T.K.Thorvilson,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Thorvilson:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst.

I take it that both the Lutheran and Presbyterian Mission Boards desire above all else the spiritual welfare of Petersburg. It was this which prompted our Board to withdraw in your favor at a time when we were about to provide a missionary to take the place of our Mr. Diven. We had received no intimation of the intention of the Lutheran church to occupy Petersburg in any formal way but willingly yielded to you three years ago when you arrived to take up the work of Christ in that community.

There are two things which I feel that we as Presbyterians may reasonably expect. First, that the spiritual interests of the community shall be conserved and served.

You will pardon me in saying that I do not quite agree with you as to the weight to be attached to the petition presented. While it is only stated in the petition that the petitioners desire the Presbyterian church to resume operations in Petersburg I feel that it represents a considerable dissatisfaction with the present leadership. And I am not dependent upon the petition alone for this impression because it has been brought to my attention by a good many people of Petersburg personally. It can hardly be successfully claimed that only the "Presbyterian" element is agitating the change since, to my knowledge, the only Presbyterians in the town are Mr. and Mrs. Duryea. Also, it can not be charged to the "American" element

inasmuch as admittedly 90% of the population is Norwegian. There was a considerably larger number of names ^{of the population} than 10% on the petition.

In addition to the petition is the farther fact that the attendance at church services has fallen very far below that when our Mr. Diven was in charge. Although unable to speak in ^{Norwegian} English he held the attention of a large number of people at his services.

The second thing in which our Board is interested is in the matter of payment for the property which is now being used for Norwegian services. Three years have passed and no payment has been made on the principal of the obligation. It can hardly be true that there is a marked support of the present leadership when no more has been done in taking over the church building.

Our Board is no more inclined to take over the work at Petersburg now than when the Norwegian church took it over three years ago, but for the same reason that we founded the mission in the first place must we take knowledge of conditions of spiritual interest now.

It seems to me that the two facts, as to the petition, which expresses undoubtedly a considerable degree of unrest under present conditions, as to the decreased church attendance and the lack of financial support, furnish a basis for question as to whether it is not our duty to reoccupy the field.

I am writing in the spirit of frankness and with an earnest attempt to see only the larger interests of the kingdom of Christ.

In this same spirit I wish to suggest that a possible solution might be the bringing in of another Lutheran minister who shall attempt to rally the christian forces of Petersburg unhampered by any prejudices which may have arisen. Sometimes one man succeeds where another does not. Would it

not be advisable for some one else to attempt to reach the people of Petersburg - a man with different methods and ideals and personality. This is what I should suggest if one of our own men were involved in similar conditions.

I am sending a copy of your letter, to Mr. Olin, together with a copy of this letter to you. I am requesting Mr. Olin to send both letters to the Superintendent of your mission work as I deem that the best way of bringing the matter to a conclusion. I take it that the question is one which can not be adjusted locally. I shall be guided in my conclusions by the judgment of the officials of the Mission Boards.

Regarding the expulsion of Mrs. Duryea from the W.C.T.U. I understand from your letter that the basis for such action was her connection with the petition above. Without having the facts I should say that such a basis would not seem at all sufficient for such drastic action. The belief that a resumption of activities by the Presbyterian church would be advisable would hardly be accepted as sufficient cause for expulsion in the judgment of the unprejudiced. I have always considered Mr. and Mrs. Duryea as most estimable people and their record for christian work in Petersburg will be a sufficient vindication of their christian character.

I do not intend that the above letter shall in any way give offence but only that I may frankly state what I believe might be an advisable solution of the present difficulties at Petersburg.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

James H. Ennit

Petersburg

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 17, 1916

Mr. H.C.Olin,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Mr. Olin:

I enclose two requisitions, one from Mr. George Beck, of Kake, for supplies for the "Lois" in the sum of \$13.75. This is to be charged to the boat repair appropriation. The other is from Rev. Buchanan and is for rent for the month of March, \$30

I also enclose a recent communication from Rev. T.K.Thorvilson of Petersburg, in copy, and a copy of my reply to same. If it meets with your approval I would advise that these letters be sent to the president of the Norwegian Evangelical Church in America, Rev. H.G.Stub, D.D., 806 Sheldon Ave., St Paul, Minnesota. I advise this for the reason that there will soon be a conference meeting of the Lutheran church to which the Rev. Thorvilson expects to go. I am quite thoroughly convinced that the Petersburg situation demands a new minister. If the Lutheran church can supply a suitable one-- all well and good. If they do not I can see nothing else for it but that we should resume operations there. These letters are in line with my suggestion of January 7th.

In reply to your letter of February 28th suggesting the advisability of obtaining definite information as to the amount required to finance the Thane building proposition, would say, that I have taken that matter up with the Gastineaux people and Mr. Buchanan. As soon as possible I will submit an exact estimate with sketch of the proposed building.

3 Enclosures.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

March 22, 1916.

Rev. Dr. H. G. Stub, President
Home Mission Work of Norwegian
Evangelical Lutheran Church,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Sir:-

Some time since a letter was addressed to yourself from this office with regard to the work under your Mr. Thorvilson at Petersburg, Alaska. No reply having been received thereto we are moved to ask whether any progress has been made toward a more complete caring for the field at Petersburg, and whether there is any encouragement that your people will be able shortly to take over the property owned by this Board at that point.

We shall be glad to have a word from you relative to this matter, in order that we may know exactly how to act in the premises.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

Treasurer.

March 22, 1916.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Your letter of the tenth instant, with reference to the Petersburg situation, has been very carefully considered by Dr. ~~William~~ Dixon and the Treasurer. We agree that for the present at least it would not be wise for us to make very definite suggestions to the Lutheran people. We turned over the work to them at Petersburg in good faith in the expectation that they would carry it along. They seemingly accepted the trust in good faith. For us now to attempt to go in there again would hardly be the proper thing; so we feel here.

Should they come forward with a proper offer for the property I think we are in duty bound to carry out our original proposition. They must, of course, give good evidence that they can carry out any arrangement that is entered into. We will write to Dr. Stub of St. Paul, President of the Home Mission Work of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in the U.S.A., by way of inquiry as to what they intend to do. Farther than that we think we are not justified in going.

Regretting that we cannot entirely agree with you in your suggestions, and sure that we all aim toward the same end, I am

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

June 26, 1916

Mr. H.C.Olin,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Mr. Olin:

I enclose a copy of a letter just received from
Rev. J.K.Thorvilson of the Lutheran church of Petersburg.

This would indicate the possibility of payments
on the church property, so-on.

Also, that a new man will succeed Mr. Thorvilson.
I hope that he will be a better man for the place.

Inasmuch as there seems now to be no possibility
of the Presbyterian church taking over the work at Petersburg
again, would it not be advisable to dispose of the manse to
whoever will buy, provided a reasonable price may be obtained.
The money invested should be available for other work in Alaska
of a Presbyterian foundation. It has been intimated to me that
we are not receiving as much rent for the building as it should
be bringing.

Sincerely,

James H. Condit,

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

July 6th, 1916.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Yours of the 26th ult., enclosing copy of a letter from the Rev. J. K. Thorvilson, with further reference to the situation at Petersburg, is at hand today. Thank you very much for your letter, and for the copy enclosed.

I am glad that the new man has been found to succeed Mr. Thorvilson, and hope the work may be thoroughly well managed there, and that we may at last get some definite word and action as to the property.

As to the rental for the Manse. We are receiving the same amount now as we received from the dentist, and now from the Banker. You doubtless have some acquaintance in Petersburg - would it not be possible to push for a larger rental, or indeed, for sale, among some of your acquaintances upon whom you can rely? Will you kindly look after this matter and report at your early convenience.

Cordially yours,

Treasurer.

GUNNISON & ROBERTSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

101-107 DECKER BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 26, 1916.

Board of Home Missions,
156 - 5th Avenue,
New York City.

Attention Mr. H. C. Olin

Gentlemen:

RE: PETERSBURG MANSE - RENTAL

Dr. Condit and the writer today had an interview with Mr. K. L. Steberg of Petersburg with reference to the rental of the above property. Mr. Steberg advised us that after the receipt of the deed from the Board, about the 1st of October, that he went to Mr. Jacob Johnson, who was then occupying the house under some sort of a lease from the Board, and told Mr. Johnson that from that time on the rental of the place would be \$22.50 per month. Mr. Johnson informed him that he had paid to the Board the rental on the property up to and including the month of January, 1917, at \$10.00 a month, and that he held the receipt of the Board for it.

There seems to be some confusion over this matter. On July 6th you wrote Dr. Condit, calling his attention to the amount of rental then received for the Manse and suggesting that a larger rental be obtained or that the Manse be sold. Dr. Condit on his return to Juneau took the matter up with Mr. K. L. Steberg of Petersburg, writing him under date of October 10th, as follows:

"Our Board is not satisfied with the rental now being received for our manse property in Petersburg, which is now \$10 per month. I feel that the property should bring at least \$15 per month as other properties of like character rent in the town.

We are also anxious to dispose of the manse property and will accept \$1,000 for the same and can give a warantee deed. I wish to place the property in your hands for sale, as agent. Also, I would like for you to confer with Mr. Johnson as to the rental. When you ascertain his mind in the matter will you kindly notify me as to that and also as to the probability of your being able to make the sale for us. Of course we will expect to pay the usual commission for services as agent in sale."

#2 - Board of Home Missions.

On August 14th Mr. Steberg wrote Dr. Condit acknowledging his letter of the 10th instant quoted above, and making the Board an offer of \$900 cash for the property. In the letter he says:

"Mr. Johnson is out fishing so I am unable to see him at present."

On the 17th Dr. Condit replied that the Board would not accept the \$900 cash offer but that

"inasmuch as your commission on the \$1000 basis would amount to \$50.00, I would be willing to accept \$950 cash and so offer. If this appeals to you communicate with Judge R. A. Gunnison who has power of attorney and can issue deed. I leave on the Mariposa to be absent for a month to the Westward. Should you care to buy at this figure will you proceed as by my letter of August 10th."

On August 25th we received a letter from Mr. Steberg dated August 23rd, accepting Dr. Condit's offer. At the time I had before me no description of the property. I therefore wired Judge Thomas, the Commissioner at Wrangell, asking for the description and acknowledged Mr. Steberg's letter, advising that as soon as the description of the property was received, we would execute a deed and forward it to him. Thereafter, we received from the Commissioner at Wrangell a certified copy of the deed to the Board, which showed two lots, one for the church and one for the manse. The Commissioner wrote that Mr. Clark of Wrangell advised that the manse was on Lot 4. We thereupon draw a deed which the writer executed on September 5th, and mailed the same to Mr. Steberg care of the Petersburg Bank. Later in the same day the writer left for a business trip to the Westward and was gone a month. During his absence Lot 4, transferred by that deed, was found to be the lot on which the church stood and a new deed was therefore drawn which was executed on the 28th day of September. The period of Mr. Steberg's ownership began on the 5th day of September.

It now appears from the correspondence forwarded to Dr. Condit with reference to this that Mr. Jacob Johnson wrote you early in September, paying the rental at \$10 per month up to and including the month of January, 1917. When the sale was consummated with Mr. Steberg about the 5th day of September, we had no knowledge here that Mr. Johnson had paid the rental in advance or at all. Mr. Steberg knew that Mr. Johnson was the tenant and what he was paying, and also that Dr. Condit had said that the rental was too low.

#3 - Board of Home Missions.

The copies of the letters which passed between Steberg and Johnson, which Johnson sent to you, came to hand thru Dr. Condit. Mr. Steberg stated to us this morning that he thought the Board should make up to him the difference between \$10. a month, which Johnson paid and \$22.50, which he asked from Johnson. The Board should, of course, remit to him the \$10.00 per month for the period from the 5th day of September up to and including the month of January, which Johnson has paid. It is quite obvious from the dates, etc. that someone told Johnson of the proposed sale to Steberg and that he thereupon hastened to send to you the money for the rental up to the 1st of February, thereby seeking to "put one over" on Mr. Steberg.

When Mr. Steberg asked him to move out or pay this added rental he informed Mr. Steberg that he would neither pay the rental nor move, and Mr. Steberg said today that he thought the Board ought to pay him in addition to the \$10.00 already received by the Board, the difference between that amount and the \$22.50 which he was asking. We told him that the Board, so far as we could see, is under no legal obligation to do so, nor do we see that they are under any moral obligation for that matter. We told him that probably the Board would be willing to take back the property and refund him the money, but that he didn't seem to want to do, as he said he thought he had a bargain. I have no doubt that we were slow at both ends of the line in not advising of the various steps that were taken with reference to this matter. Dr. Condit was away at the time the deal was consummated and I left the same day I executed and mailed the deed to Steberg. I should have informed you of it then but I do not know that the knowledge that Johnson had paid the rental in advance would have made any difference with reference to our action in the matter.

I would suggest that you send to Dr. Condit or me,, for delivery to Mr. Steberg, a draft for the amount of the advance rental paid by Johnson, figuring it from the 5th day of September.

In regard to the difference between the rental paid by Johnson and the amount asked by Steberg, I have no recommendations to offer, and I do not see that the Board is called upon to make any refund to him, tho, of course, it is possible, but not probable, that knowledge that the rental was paid in advance might have made some difference with the price which Steberg offered. However, I do not see that even that puts the Board under any obligation to do more than to pay over to him such amount as has been received by the Board, as suggested above.

#4 - Board of Home Missions.

Dr. Condit is forwarding to you with his own letter
a draft for \$950.00 to cover the sale of this property.

Yours truly,

CUNNINGHAM & ROBERTSON,

By Loyal Cunningham

RAG/A

cc - Dr. Condit.

Copy

Petersburg, Alaska, January 24th, 1917

Rev. James H. Condit,

Juneau.

Dear Sir:

At the annual meeting of our church here, we resolved to buy the church, and, to arrive at the price to be paid have a board of appraisers of 5, 2 to be appointed by you, 2 by us, not members of the church, and the 4 to choose a fifth. That will be entirely fair to both sides. The selection of the two you can delegate to Mr. Duryea.

The foundation is rotten and a new foundation must be put under it which will cost quite a little. Let me know if this means of ascertaining the price is satisfactory.

Our general conference will meet in Minneapolis, June 6-13, and I will preach my farewell sermon before I leave. Another man will take my place here.

Yours fraternally,

(signed) T.K. Thorvilson

Copy

January 25, 1917

Rev. T.K. Thorvilson,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Thorvilson:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 24th in which you state that the Lutheran people of Petersburg have resolved to buy the Presbyterian church building at Petersburg and to have a board of appraisers appointed to determine what price shall be paid.

Our Board will be most happy to have the agreement of a number of years ago carried out as to the purchase of the property by your people. As I have frequently indicated in past correspondence we have need of the money invested for other mission work in Alaska. I am submitting a copy of your letter to our financial department and will not be able to write definitely to you until I receive word from New York.

I may say, however, that I am doubtful as to the Board being willing to agree to the appraiser idea.

As I have frequently intimated the Board of our church appropriated and expended \$1,425.10, the amount upon which you have been paying interest on the building loan. This does not include any money raised and expended locally. For this, and for the value of the lot, our Board asks no recompense. It does ask that the amount of its actual appropriation from its treasury be returned.

In view of the great increase of building materials I am very sure that the church could not be replaced for anywhere near the above. There is in addition the value of the lot, we being in a position to give a warranted deed to the whole property.

I may add that I have had a tentative offer for the property and am positive that we will have no trouble in realizing the full amount of the Board's appropriation in a sale to other parties, if in fact we can not do better, which I am inclined to think we can.

In view of this I am of the opinion that we will not feel the justice of submitting the valuation of the property to appraisers as we are well satisfied of the value of the property to us, which as I have indicated, is to the Lutheran people, the amount of our appropriation, but to others will probably be more.

I may add that I consider it only fair and just, now, that we do not delay the matter of a sale, when possible, to any prospective purchaser. We have certainly given your body every opportunity to take over the buildings which could reasonably be asked.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 25, 1917

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I am herewith enclosing a recent letter from the Rev. T.K. Thorvilson, of Petersburg, Alaska, who for the past three or more years has been occupying our church property at Petersburg as a house of worship for the Lutheran church of which is the minister in charge.

I am also enclosing a copy of my reply.

The Lutherans came into Petersburg without invitation and without announcement in so far as the Presbyterian church was concerned. At the time the Rev. Mr. Diven was on the point of transfer to Sitka from Petersburg. Inasmuch as we felt that there was no room for two churches in the town we determined to abandon the field to the Lutherans. I so represented to the Rev. Thorvilson and suggested that his body take over our property, church and manse, on the basis of reimbursing our Boards for the amounts actually granted, which was \$1,000 on the manse and \$1,829.10 on the church. He readily agreed to this and from that time to this has continued making promises and not fulfilling them as to purchasing the property. Recently, as you know, we disposed of the manse.

In my judgement this proposal to appoint appraisers is a bit presumptuous. As I have indicated the property is well worth much more than the grant made to the building since we hold the lot by warranty deed and so can give perfect title. There seems to be no reason for appraisement.

I have also indicated that there is a possibility of disposing of the property to other parties. A real estate man of the place has suggested that he might be able to take the property if the Lutherans finally failed in living up to their bargain. I gave him no encouragement because we all, I am sure, would prefer that the building be occupied as a church, if possible.

I am referring this matter to your department, however, before giving Mr. Thorvilson a final reply.

I also would ask that while the matter is under advisement it be determined whether it is not now time to proceed to sell the church property to whoever will buy in order that the money may be available for other work in Alaska.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

February 7th, 1917.

Mr. Walter M. Aikman, Chairman,
174 Fulton st.,
City.

Dear Mr. Aikman:-

Herewith you will find letters just received from our Dr. Condit of Juneau, covering the correspondence had by him with Rev. T. K. Thorvilson of Petersburg, Alaska, all of which explains itself.

Dr. Condit's point it seems to me is very well taken - in that the Lutheran people of Petersburg show a disposition to ignore their original arrangement, and should be called upon to carry out the agreement which they entered into to purchase the church building for the specific sum named \$1,829.10. It is on this amount which the Lutheran Church has been paying interest every six months.

With the return of these papers, kindly indicate your wishes and I will communicate with Dr. Condit in harmony therewith.

Sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

B/H

(Enclosures)

WORKS,
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E. M. BLAKE,
SECRETARY

W. M. AIKMAN, JR.,
SUPT. OF WORKS

Mr. H. C. Olin, Treasurer,
The Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. City.

Dear Mr. Olin:

Referring to Dr. Condit's letter of January 25th, returned herewith, you may say to Dr. Condit in reply that the Finance Committee is in thorough accord with him in the position which he takes in relation to the sale of our Church property at Petersburg, Alaska. He should not recede from it one iota. Of course, it is desirable that the building should be occupied as a Church and the price at which it is offered to our Lutheran Bretheren I consider a very liberal offer, and if they do not avail themselves of it we should sell to other parties and probably at a better price.

We could not for a moment consider the proposition for an appraisal.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman Finance Committee.

February 9, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Your letter of the twenty-fifth ultimo regarding the correspondence had by you with Rev. T. N. Thorvilson of Petersburg; Alaska, was received on the sixth instant.

We are quite surprised that the Lutherans of Petersburg should attempt at this late day to change the conditions of the agreement they entered into, by which they were to pay us during the period they occupied the church buildings a certain percentage on the valuation agreed upon at that time, viz: \$1,829.10, and to pay said sum to the Board as the purchase price for the building as soon as their funds permitted.

I submitted your correspondence to the Chairman of our Finance Committee, commending the position taken in your letter of the twenty-fifth ultimo addressed to Mr. Thorvilson, and am now authorized to say that our Finance Committee is in thorough accord with you in the position which you have taken in relation to the sale of the church property at Petersburg, and that you should not recede from such position one iota. The Board could not for a moment consider the proposition for an appraisal. The Lutheran people must do either one of two things,-carry out the agreement which they entered into to purchase the church property at the price above named, or to consider the agreement as void. In the latter event we can then proceed to negotiate with other parties for the sale of the building.

Whether the church property is sold to the Lutherans or to some other party it should be borne in mind that we will be compelled to obtain from the Board of the Church Erection Fund a satisfaction of their mortgage before we can convey good and sufficient title. This will somewhat delay the delivery of the deed as, of course, we must first secure and place on file at the record office the satisfaction piece so that the deed from the Board in transfer of this property will bear a date subsequent to the date the satisfaction piece is recorded.

I am inclined to think that we have only to be firm with the Lutherans to bring them to a realizing sense that the agreement they originally made must be carried out. I also think it would be well to advise them that the Board is quite surprised that they should consider for a moment making such a proposition as they have.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B-CM

free
Petersburg, Alaska, Alek. 21st, 1917.

Mr. H. C. Oline,

New York.

Dear Sir:

I have had some correspondence with Dr. Leondik, lately, about buying the church here, as he probably has informed you. Our congregation here decided, at its annual meeting, to buy the church, and suggested that a board of appraisers be appointed, you to select two, we two (not members of the church), and the four a fifth member. The church is, of course, not worth what it cost to build it - it is now far older, needs a new foundation and much repair. Dr. Leondik is figuring on getting back the \$2829.10 that you put into the property, and as an argument mentions that lumber has gone up a great deal. So it has the last two years, but carpenters here claim lumber is not as high as when the church was built. Further,

that you sold the manse too cheap,
that the company had a very profitable
contract on the two buildings.

Mr. Lisdahl also mentions the fact.

It must be remembered, however, that
that was donated by the company
— majority of aged stockholders were
Norwegian Lutherans, and was given
to the Presbyterians, in spite of the fact
that you offer Presbyterians, to get a church
here. Now, we thought it reasonable
and equitable way of determining the
present value of the church, was by
a board of appraisers, who would
take every thing into consideration.

But Mr. Lisdahl does not take seriously
to that — he wants his "pound of flesh."
Now, we want the church, if we can
agree on the terms. He wants to do
what is reasonable.

Yours Truly,
T. K. Thorvilson

Copy

February 21, 1917

Rev. T.K. Thorvilson,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear sir:

As by my letter of January 23rd I have placed before our A.S. Board your proposition as to appraisers on church valuation at Petersburg and am instructed to say that our board not only will not consider such a proposal but is also surprised that you should make it. Under date January 8th, 1914, you wrote as follows:

We have held a meeting and adopted the following resolution:
Resolved that the Petersburg Lutheran Church offers to buy the church and parsonage on the following terms--we pay the amount the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions has put into it, \$2829.10, etc.

This letter was to our Secretary, Mr. C.L. Thompson. Since that time other correspondence has been had and other propositions accepted by our board and all on the above basis of valuation. As I have so often said before we want just what we have put into the building, of mission funds, viz, 1829.10, and will not accept less and will not submit the question of valuation to appraisers.

Your people have now occupied the building of our church for four years without having paid anything on the purchase price. For one year you had the building free, for three years you have paid at the rate of about 9 per month. Your present proposition does not come with good grace under these circumstances.

I wish to say that we feel neither morally nor legally bound to hold the property for you any longer. If no definite arrangement is made by the first of April we will proceed to take other steps looking toward the disposal of the same. This is final in so far as our board is concerned.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 21, 1917

more Petersburg Alaska
Mr. Varian Banks.

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter of this date to the Rev. T.K. Thorgilson of Petersburg, in re his recent proposition looking toward the appointment of appraisers to determine value of our property there

The conduct of the Lutherans, and especially of their minister, at Petersburg has been anything but satisfactory. Just what we can do if they fail to accede to our very reasonable request for an accounting I do not at present know. It is certainly time that some definite understanding be had with them. If they now fail to come through with a payment I think I shall inquire for some Lutheran or at least Norwegian speaking denomination to whom a sale might be made. Failing in this I know of no alternative, (other than occupying the field again ourselves, which I do not consider advisable now) but to sell to whosoever will buy. This action will arouse criticism but I do not know what other course is open.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

Replying to your communication of the 9th inst.

March 5th, 1918.

In re Petersburg, Alaska
Property

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

You will find enclosed deed of this Board conveying to the Petersburg Lutheran Church the lot upon which is erected the Petersburg Church building now sold to the Lutheran Church for the sum of \$1500.

We have followed the request of the Lutheran Church representatives in not only giving the description in accordance with the present local records but have also referred to the former deed, to the description contained in that deed and where it is filed for record. This effectively connects up our present title with the previous title.

I also enclose the deed of the Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Company of Petersburg to this Board, dated April 1st, 1913. We will await your further report in this matter, together with draft on New York for \$1500. covering the purchase price of this property.

Yours very sincerely,

(ENCLOSURES)

Assistant Treasurer.

B-CM

March 5th, 1917.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau,

Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 21st ult., concerning the Petersburg situation, with which you enclosed copy of your letter to Rev. T. K. Thorvilson, which we approve and confirm.

If Mr. Thorvilson does not respond within a reasonable time, I think it would be well to send him word that he must either come to some definite conclusion or else that you will be compelled on behalf of the Board to annul the arrangement now in force, in order to free the property for such disposition as we may wish to make of it.

As you have already been advised, we would much prefer the sale of the church building for the purpose of continuing its use as a house of worship, but if the ^Lutherans fail to do the right thing, and we are unable to secure a purchaser who will use the building for church purposes, then our only alternative is to sell to the first one who will buy.

We will await your further report in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

B.H.

Treasurer.

In re Petersburg, Alaska

October 4th, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

We are in receipt from Mr. L. J. Israelson, Treasurer of the Lutheran Church at Petersburg, of a check for \$27.75, together with a receipted bill from the Town of Petersburg for \$27.12, the cost of installing an electric system in the Petersburg Church building, both of which amounts total \$54.87, covering the rental due for the six months ending July 1st, 1917.

We have not been informed, so far as I can recall or can glean from the correspondence on file that such an arrangement had been provided for. The bill indicates that the installation was effected on November 2nd, 1916.

What do you know about this?

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H

October 5th, 1917.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

Mr. L. J. Israelson, Treas.,

Petersburg, Alaska.

Dear Sir:-

You will find herein our formal receipt for \$27.75, covering the net amount of rental paid by the Lutheran Church of Petersburg on the value of our church building at Petersburg for the six months ended July 1st, 1917, being a balance of such rental after payment of the bill for installing the electric system in the church amounting to \$27.12.

I do not understand just upon whose authority this expense was incurred, as the matter has never been brought to our attention, although it is possible that our Alaskan representative - Rev. James H. Dondit, D.D. - may have arranged for the settlement of this expense in a different manner.

I understand, however, from the fact that this system has been installed that it is one of permanency, and will remain in the church as part of the property, whether your people continue to occupy the building or not. It is upon this understanding that we accept the adjustment of the interest due.

Yours very truly,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H

(Enclosure)

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 26, 1917

Mr. Varian Banks,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Referring to your letter of the 4th of October with its statement that the Petersburg Lutheran Church people had placed Electric lighting in our church property and deducted the bill from the semi-annual rental would say that your letter is the first intimation I have had that such improvement had been made.

It would seem that they should have obtained permission to make such a disposition of the rental before proceeding. I do not know what the proper attitude is relative to this. Certainly they should be notified that they were out of order in assuming to dispose of the rental without permission from me, as the Board's agent in Alaska, or directly, from headquarters.

This Petersburg matter is certainly an annoying situation. For more than three years, now, the Lutherans have occupied our property on the basis of soon purchasing the same. So far as I know there has been no money paid on purchase. In voluminous correspondence and personal interview as well I have been unable to accomplish anything looking toward a final adjustment as to the church property. The manse, as you know, was sold to other parties. I have been inclined to sell the church, also, to whomever would buy, and yet, I have not thus far pushed the matter because it would deprive the community of any church building and arouse resentment no matter how just our cause.

I will have to go to Ketchikan shortly, doubtless, to look up our interests there, and when I do so will stop at Petersburg and see whether I can do anything with the new minister who has succeeded the Rev. Mr. Thorvilson.

The only extenuating circumstance is that at the rate, of \$109.74, rental, per year they are gradually reducing the actual amount which our Board put into this property, viz, \$1829.10.

What would the Financial Committee think of my offering to accept this amount less the rental which has been paid? This would be approximately \$1400.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

*Lutheran Church
Petersburg
offered
for purchase*

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 15th, 1917

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

One of the Petersburg Lutherans, a Mr. Louis Vick, came to see me yesterday, relative to our church property there.

As you know we have had considerable unpleasant experience relative thereto. The former minister, Mr. Thorvilson, was not inclined to deal honorably and did not live up to his promises.

Now, however, the church has a new minister who seems to be more of a christian. The Mr. Vick, who saw me here, is also more inclined to do what is right than any one I have had correspondence or conversation with. He favors buying the building but intimates that some of the members used the argument, in their recent congregational meeting, that one church (meaning the Presbyterian) should not drive hard bargains with another christian body, etc., etc. The secret of all this is the influence of Thorvilson.

Certainly we have not attempted to drive a hard bargain. We have only asked that the Lutheran Church return to us the actual amount of the grant made, viz, \$1829.10. We have not asked anything for local labor or contributions, nor for the lot.

We will remember that the lot was contributed by a local company for church purposes. We have a warantee deed. Also, that we have been receiving rent for three years at the rate of \$109.74 per year, or 6% on the grant. This will leave our treasury short, thus far, in the sum of approximately \$1500.

Also, there are some of the Lutherans who advocate building another church. Should this be done it would not be easy to dispose of our property as it is not in shape to be easily remodelled. In addition, the foundation is in bad shape and the building settled at the tower corner. Mr. Vick thinks that it will take \$400 to put it in shape.

In view of all this I believe that it is advisable that we offer to take \$1500 cash for the property and be done with it. This will be the amount of the grant less the amount paid for rent. I told Mr. Vick that I would recommend this to the Board and he thought the congregation would accept such an offer.

Should the Finance Committee agree to this I would suggest that you wire me to that effect so that the deal may be put through promptly. Also, that a deed be prepared, which I understand will be a warantee deed, and mailed to me at once so that I may deliver the same and secure the payment as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

P.S. On investigation I find that I do not have the corporate name of the Petersburg Church. It will be necessary, therefore, to withhold the execution of the deed until farther correspondence is had and this probably would better be deferred until the receipt of your telegram, as above.

J.H.C.

In re Petersburg, Alaska, Church.

November 22, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

In connection with my letter to you regarding the above matter I omitted to mention one item referred to in your letter of the 26th ultimo which needs correction. You write that by deducting the rentals paid by the Lutherans since they occupied the above building that the approximate value of the remainder would amount to \$1400.00.

Our records show that during the period of their tenancy they assumed and paid for improvements to the amount of \$46.17 and have remitted to this office \$228/12, making a total rental paid by them of \$274.29. This has no particular bearing upon the question of selling at this time, but I thought best to give you the above facts. Of course, the above rental carries the account to July First, 1917, for two and one-half years' rental beginning January first, 1915.

I hope you will press the Lutheran people strongly for a definite statement as to what they can and will do. Of course, the simplest solution of the matter would be the sale of the property and if you are enabled to obtain an entirely satisfactory settlement with a guarantee of such kind as will assure the terms thereof being strictly and promptly carried out, we will await your further recommendation after we have fully considered all sides of the question.

Sincerely yours,

B-CM

Assistant Treasurer.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

December 4, 1917.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Before your letter of the 15th ultimo, in regard to the above matter, reached this office I had already written you in harmony with the direction of our Finance Committee as to this property situation.

You still keep in mind that we have been receiving cash at the rate of \$109.74, whereas you overlook the fact that certain repairs have been made to the building so that the actual cash received aggregates the sum which I have already reported to you.

If we should sell the building to the Lutherans for the difference between the rental and the total cost we cannot, you can readily see, give them credit for amounts which we have never received, as if they take the property the benefit for such repairs and improvements as have been installed reverts to their benefit exclusively. No part of such additions represents any benefit to this Board. I hope that you have not gone so far in your present negotiations as to lead the Lutherans, through your conference with Mr. Vick, to believe that the Board will accept the \$1500.00 in cash. I will have to bring this matter before our Finance Committee at its meeting to be held on the 12th instant.

In discussing this question at the previous meeting of the Committee the thought was expressed that if we accept any material reduction in the amount of the purchase price as was originally agreed upon what is to prevent the Lutherans from feeling that we tacitly confess that our original proposition was too severe and unwarranted?

I will write you later definitely as soon as the Committee have taken action.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B-CM

Copy

December 6th, 1917

Mr. Louis Vick,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Vick:

Continuing our conversation of a few weeks ago relative to the Petersburg church property, I offer the following:

In his letter of January 5th, 1914, to our Secretary in New York, Rev. Mr. Thorvilson, then pastor, wrote as follows:

"Your favor in regard to the church property here is at hand, also one from Dr. Condit. We have held a meeting and adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the Petersburg Lutheran Church offers to buy the church and parsonage on the following terms: We pay the amount the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions has put into it, \$2829.10, payable in 5 years, at 6 percent interest, interest payable annually in New York, and as much on the amount every year as we are able to collect."

Inasmuch as the Lutheran Church did not carry out the terms of this agreement we found it necessary to dispose of the parsonage, realizing for the same the sum of \$1,000.

This left a balance of \$1829.10 standing on the church property.

The Lutheran Church has occupied the church property since January, 1914. Had interest on the amount been paid, as by agreement, we would have received up to January 1, 1917, the sum of \$329.22, and up to July 1, 1917, the sum of \$384.09.

But, our board has received in actual cash for this period, the sum of \$228.12. In addition, we have received receipts for improvements on the building to the amount of \$46.17, or a total of \$274.29. If we deduct this total from the original grant made to the church, there would now be due our board the sum of \$1554.81. It therefore appears that nothing has been paid on the principal and that the interest has not been kept up by the sum of \$109.80.

I think it only fair to again call attention to the fact that this \$1829.10, which our board granted on the church building is the amount which was actually paid from our treasury. It does not take into account the local contributions on the building or the value of the lot. Also, I think it only fair to submit that the building can not be replaced today for \$1829.10.

But, as we wish to finally dispose of the matter and receive the money back again to put into our work elsewhere in Alaska, and also, since we wish to be fair in our dealings with a sister church I make the following proposition: We will accept \$1500 cash for the property and give a warranty deed for same. I consider this to be a very liberal offer and hope that we may hear from your official board promptly in acceptance of the same.

Sincerely yours,
JAMES R. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 6th, 1917

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue,

New York.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Your letter of the 22nd ult., relative to the Petersburg matter, only reached me yesterday. *file*

I have no reply, as yet, to my letter of the 15th ult., in which I put the conversation with Mr. Vick, of Petersburg, before the Board, and suggested that a wire be sent me, should the Board see fit to accept my recommendation that we offer to take \$1500 for the property, and close the matter up. I am somewhat disappointed not to receive such word, inasmuch as the Petersburg people expected to hold their annual meeting soon and wanted definite information as to the attitude of our Board at that meeting.

However, I interpret your concluding paragraph of your letter of November 22nd to mean that I am authorized to proceed to negotiate with the Petersburg church and I therefore am writing to Mr. Vick by today's mail making the offer outlined in the copy of said letter which I enclose.

So soon as I hear from the Petersburg congregation in relation to this proposition I will promptly notify you.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

K.L.Steberg
Petersburg, Alaska

December 18, 1917

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir:--

In reply to yours of the 8th instant to Mr. Louis Vick, member of the Board of Trustees of the local church, beg to advise that, at the regular meeting of the Petersburg Lutheran Church held Wednesday, December 12th, it was unanimously voted to purchase from the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, the church property located here in Petersburg at the price stipulated of \$1500 cash.

The congregation elected a committee of two, consisting of E.P.Refling and K.L.Steberg, to make the arrangements for the completion of this transaction.

We, therefore, ask you if you will kindly prepare the warranty deed to the Petersburg Lutheran Church of Petersburg, Alaska and forward same to the Bank of Petersburg, subject to examination. We have on deposit with the Bank of Petersburg the sum of \$1500 to cover the purchase price.

Hoping this will be satisfactory, we beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

(signed) Petersburg Lutheran Church
by E.P.Refling
by K.L.Steberg

Copy

December 19, 1917

Mr. K.L. Steberg,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Steberg:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th inst. and am submitting your offer to our Board of Home Missions in New York for their consideration inasmuch as all my acts as their agent are subject to the approval of the same.

The deed to the property must come, also, from the Board in New York.

I will communicate with you as soon as I hear from the Board. You will appreciate the fact that this will require some time and I must ask your patience until word can be received in response to my letter. This will require probably three weeks from this date.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 19th, 1917

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

Your letter of the 4th inst., with respect to the sale of the Petersburg property, reached me by today's mail.

As indicated in my letter of December 6th I understood your communication of November 22nd to be authorization to proceed to negotiate a sale. Believing that a sale at \$1500 would be very advantageous to the Board I made my offer of my letter to Mr. Louis Vick of December 6th, copy of which was forwarded to your office. Your letter of the 4th expresses the hope that I have not gone so far as to make such an offer.

I regret if this action is contrary to the wish of the Board.

In response to my offer I now have a definite proposal from the Petersburg Church to take over the property for \$1500 and the cash is on deposit in the bank as by the copy of letter from the trustees enclosed.

I am writing by today's mail to the Trustees that my offer is subject to the approval of the Board, as I had already indicated verbally to Mr. Vick. I also enclose copy of my letter to this effect.

At this date I have not received word as to the action of the Board at its meeting of the Finance Committee of the 14th. In order to expedite matters as far as possible I am writing immediately without having received such letter.

At this distance it is immensely difficult to get business through affecting the transfer of the Board's property. If I have seemed to presume in this or any other matters affecting the Board's business it is because it seemed necessary in order to conserve the Board's interests. In this particular instance the opportunity to finally settle up a matter which has been dragging for years seemed to me to call for action.

I can only add that it seems to me in every way desirable to accept this proposition. Conceding that the Board has received only \$228.12 in rentals then the difference between the grant of \$1829.10 and this amount is \$1600.98. If the present offer of \$1500 is accepted the Board would lose \$100 on the proposition.

But, if the Board does not see fit to accept \$1500 it stands to lose more than \$100 ultimately, in my opinion. The building is in bad shape as to foundations and in order to keep it in shape demands immediate expenditure for this purpose.

The property is not adapted to other than church use and is therefore not salable, as it stands, for any other purpose.

It is to be remembered, too, that the building was occupied for several years by our church for mission purposes and that to this extent the Board has realized on the investment as a mission enterprise.

Again, inasmuch as the Board has no interest in profiting out of the transaction, and is interested in seeing that a church is maintained in Petersburg, it would seem advisable to make concessions, if necessary, in order that the mission work may be continued in Petersburg in the property set apart for that purpose in the town, and for which the lots were contributed locally.

For my own part I do not see that there is sufficient cause to lead us to reject an offer which is advantageous both to the Board and to the cause of mission work in Petersburg on the ground that the action of the Board in so doing might be interpreted in the wrong light. Are we much concerned as to what the Lutherans might think? In so far as this is concerned I am very well assured that no such interpretation would be placed upon the Board's action.

In this matter as in all others affecting the interests of the Board in Alaska I have acted on my best judgement in the interest of the Board.

If my action in this instance does not meet with the approval of the Board I can only express my regret and the assurance that I will in the future avoid initiative in business matters and will make no representations until fully authorized so to do. But I must also say that because of the time required in communicating with your office it has seemed necessary, at times, to proceed according to my best judgement and trust to the wisdom of my actions to justify the presumption on my part in so doing, as well as secure the approval of the Finance Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

December 24th, 1917.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Letters in the above matter to you were on their way before we received your letter of the 6th instant with which you enclosed a copy of your letter to Mr. Bick, making a specific offer to the Lutheran people based upon your interpretation of the closing paragraph of my letter to you of November 22nd.

My letters to you were written before any action by the Finance Committee could be had, and I thought that this had been made clear, so I cannot readily understand how you come to conclude the way was clear to make a definite proposition to the Lutheran people.

Our Finance Committee in considering this matter were of the unanimous opinion that to offer to the Lutherans a less price for the church building than was originally agreed by them would possibly lead to the inference and confession that our original terms were excessive; it was also their judgment that should we through other circumstances which would make it desirable, agree to reduce our offer, that they should at least not be credited with more than they had actually paid into our treasury, and the point which I made in a recent letter that the Lutherans should not take credit under such circumstances for amounts expended on the building, was approved. As a matter of fact, by giving the Lutheran people credit for every cent that they have paid in in the way of interest on the original amount as applicable to the principal, they still owe us \$1600., and it was the feeling of the Committee that the Lutherans ought to be well satisfied to have our original offer modified by reducing the principal sum to this latter amount, and it was our hope that they would agree to pay \$1600. You have, however, gone so far as to make what the Lutherans will consider an authoritative offer, but unless you have an understanding with them regarding the details as to when and how the final settlement is to be made in connection with which no specific reference is made in your letter, I much fear that we will arrive at the same situation again which confronted us when the Lutherans failed to carry out their original agreement. In other words, what assurance have we - and this is the point which the Committee felt should have been taken into consideration before a definite offer was made - that the Lutherans will, in the event they accept another proposition that is definitely made, carry the same out promptly and in harmony with the terms agreed upon? You of course, understand that our Committee naturally could not agree to a reduction in amount, and then to carry the time of payment to an uncertain future.

Unless I am mistaken, I have in previous instances called

Dr. Condit, page 2.

your attention to the fact that our Board very rarely gives a Warranty deed to any property which it may sell, but that it follows the "Covenant against Grantor" form which simply guarantees the title in so far as any act or acts of the Board are concerned. In case of this prospective sale, we will give title on our usual form.

Also, what effect will this sale have upon those who gave us the lot for the use of the Presbyterian Church, and will the spirit as well as the letter of such gift be carried out fully, if the property is turned over to the Lutherans?

As to all of the foregoing, let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H

In re Petersburg, Alaska
Church property.

January 2nd, 1918.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Upon receipt of your letter of the 19th ult., and in view of the action of our Finance Committee in which they authorized the acceptance of \$1500. in cash for the above church property - in the event that the more equitable sum of \$1600. could not be had, and in order that no unnecessary delay might ensue which would imperil the carrying out of the sale in view of all the circumstances you narrated in your letter - I sent you the following Night Lettergram which you will of course, understand followed my last letter to you on the subject and takes precedence over it, viz:-

"Your offer to sell church at Petersburg for
"Fifteen Hundred Dollars net cash approved.
"Send corporate title of Lutheran church or
"names of Trustees in whichever way transfer
"is to be made. Will forward deed as soon as
"your reply to above by mail is received.
"Happy New Year."

It is quite true as you say that it matters very little what the Lutherans think of this reduced offer, so long as they carry it through, but it was in the minds of our Finance Committee at the time the discussion of this matter was had that before the Lutherans came to any final conclusion they might take into consideration the fact that our Board was willing to accept a reduced amount, which by inference if they were so disposed to interpret it, might mean that we felt we had a rather weak case, and were disposed to accept almost any sum in order to rid ourselves of the property. Now that the Lutherans have promised to pay the sum of \$1500. and have placed that amount in the bank, awaiting final action, we are not concerned as to their interpretation of the reduced offer which you submitted on behalf of the Board.

If this letter is received in time, I hope that you will arrange to forward the \$1500. by draft on New York as of course, we desire to save even the small expense of paying 1/4 of 1% exchanged charged on Alaskan checks by the rules of our New York Clearing House Association.

We appreciate that circumstances sometimes arise by which it seems imperatively necessary to take specific action in matters which arise sometimes unexpectedly or which come to a head sooner than anticipated but ordinarily I think it is desirable that recourse be had to telegram

Dr. Condit, page 2.

communication in matters of sales of properties; it might happen that other plans are underway here which we later expect to submit to you for consideration, so that it is desirable to place the facts in our hands before any definite action is taken, unless previous correspondence - as we hope will be the rule - puts the matter in your hands with discretionary authority to do whatever in your judgment is for the best interests of the work.

I congratulate you on conducting this property situation to such a satisfactory conclusion.

Cordially yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 9th, 1918

Mr. Varian Banks.

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Your letter of the 24th, relative to the Petersburg sale, was received after I had mailed my letter of the 24th of December on the same subject.

In my letter of latter date I enclosed a copy of the letter, in which the offer of \$1500 cash was made by the Petersburg church representatives, in which the corporate title was given. I give the same again here, viz., "Petersburg Lutheran Church of Petersburg, Alaska"

Your telegram of January 1st in which you indicate that the offer of the Petersburg Lutheran s to buy our property for \$1500 ^{is accepted} cash asks for the corporate title. I take it therefore that it was sent prior to the reception of my letter of December 19th, and in which the title was given, although the letter ought to have reached New York before January 1st.

Referring to your suggestion that in previous communications you had expressed the disposition of the Board to rarely issue a warranty deed to any property which it may sell, would say, that I do not recollect having received such information. In the Petersburg instance it is my impression that the Board holds a warranty deed to the Petersburg property. Inasmuch as the representatives of the church expressly ask for a similar deed from the Board I am unable to say whether the "Covenant against Grantor" form will be acceptable to them. That will develop, I presume, upon the tender of the deed which the Board may offer.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

January 26th, 1918.

In re Petersburg, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I enclose a blank form of deed which this Board invariably uses in conveying property which it either desires to transfer or sell, for the purpose that you may submit it to the Petersburg Church authorities, in order that they may understand the form of deed which the Board proposes to give.

We do hold as you say a Warranty Deed from the Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Company of Petersburg, Alaska, dated April 1st, 1913, and in accordance with our custom we will furnish to the Lutheran Church people this Warranty Deed, showing title in this Board, and which in connection with our deed on the "Covenant Against Grantor" form will give the Petersburg Church people just as effective title to the property as though our Board itself used the full Warranty Deed form of conveyance.

It should be understood, and I would be glad to have you explain to the Petersburg people that this Board is not a commercial organization, and that it holds property as a necessity in connection with its work, and that as a religious corporation, we cannot warranty acts of parties holding title to properties, previous to ^{our} their possession of same. There is no reason why the Petersburg people should object to the form of deed which this Board proposes to give, especially as it connects directly with the previous title as above explained.

In making out the deed, it is our invariable custom to describe the identical property as contained in the deed which we hold, and then to refer to it as being the identical real estate which is described in such and such a deed, and recorded on such and such a date and place. There is therefore a direct and definite connection between the two deeds.

I may also add that the foregoing is in accord with the position taken by our general counsel - but if notwithstanding the foregoing, the Lutheran people refuse to accept title on our form of deed, we would not wish to have the sale fall through, so that you are authorized to advise the Petersburg authorities that you will submit the matter to the Board for further consideration. In this event, specific action will be taken by the Board. We have no difficulty, however, in reaching an amicable understanding in matters of this kind upon the premises above stated.

Sincerely yours,

B.H

Assistant Treasurer.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.



PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 8th, 1918

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Pursuant to the instructions of your letter of the 26th ult. I am today forwarding the "Covenant Against Grantor" form of Deed to the Petersburg Committee on purchase of our Church Property, for their consideration.

I enclose herewith my letter to the Committee, in copy, in which I have set forth the position of the Board. I will report to you upon receipt of their answer.

I trust that the deed to Mrs. Edith J. Nelson, to the Kasaan house, to take the place of the one which I vitiated by changing the dates of a former deed, may be promptly forthcoming, inasmuch as Mrs. Nelson has returned the above to me and is now waiting for her title.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

February 8th, 1918

Mr. K.L. Steberg,

Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Steberg:

I am instructed by our Board to submit to the Committee on purchase of our church property the enclosed form of deed for its consideration.

Our Board is not a commercial organization but a religious corporation and only holds property as a necessity of its work. It therefore does not undertake to warranty acts of parties holding title to properties previous to its possession of same.

The Board holds a Warranty Deed from the Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Company of Petersburg, Alaska, dated April 1st, 1913. According to its custom it will furnish this Deed, showing title in the Board, and with it the Board's Deed on the "Covenant Against Grantor" form, enclosed. In making out its Deed the Board will follow its custom of describing the identical property as contained in the Deed which it holds, and then refer to it as being the identical real estate which is described in the Deed of the Packing Company, aforesaid, and recorded on such and such a date and place.

There is thus established a direct and definite connection between the two deeds and the Petersburg Church people will have just as effective title to the property as though the Board itself used the full Warranty Deed form of conveyance.

It has been deemed advisable to submit the above before proceeding farther, and, if upon your consideration, you find the above satisfactory, the Board will at once proceed to the execution of the above Deed, which, upon receipt, I will transmit to the Bank of Petersburg, to be delivered upon payment of the purchase price of Fifteen Hundred Dollars, as by your instructions of December 18th, 1917.

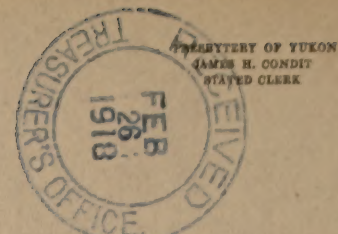
Will you kindly notify me as to the above at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,

James H. Condit
General Missionary.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK



TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA
February 16th, 1918

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

I have just received the following letter from Petersburg, Alaska, relative to the form of deed submitted to the Lutheran Board for their consideration:

"Referring to yours of the 8th inst. I beg to advise the enclosed form of deed is acceptable to our Church Board when properly executed, also the stipulated price inserted, together with the correct description of the lot as transferred to you by the Pacific Coast & Norway Packing Co.

The Board also wishes you would insert the date the warranty deed given by the Pacific Co. to your Board was recorded in the Recording Office at Wrangell.

In order to avoid any confusion in the description of this property I wish to give the correct description in accordance with our local records, which are as follows: "Being all of lot 4, Block 15, in what is known as the Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Co.'s tract in the Town of Petersburg, Territory of Alaska, as said lot appears on the plat or map of said tract and according to the survey thereof, together with the Church Building and contents now standing thereon."

As our Board is anxious to dispose of this matter, I will appreciate it if you will kindly use every effort to have this deed, when properly executed, returned as soon as possible. I am returning herewith the blank deed. "

Yours very truly,
(signed) K.L. Steberg

This would seem to open the way for the execution of the deed and when the same is forwarded to me I will collect the amount of purchase price and deliver the deed to the Lutheran Board through the Bank of Petersburg as by their proposal.

I note that you advise securing a draft on N.Y., and I will request such, payable to the Board so as to dispense with exchange cost.

I enclose the blank deed herewith.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit